

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

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Air Quality: Photochemical Reactivity - Open Meeting

**AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

**ACTION:** Notice of Open Meeting

**SUMMARY:** The EPA is holding a 3-day open meeting to discuss the concept of photochemical reactivity as it relates to control of volatile organic compounds (VOC) for the attainment of the ozone national ambient air quality standard. At the workshop, participants will discuss various issues related to reactivity policy, what research is needed to answer key questions related to those issues, and opportunities for participation in a private sector/government partnership research effort. The intent of the meeting is to share information and ideas with the scientific community rather than to reach consensus on issues. The focus of this workshop will be on identifying the scientific issues where further research is needed and how this research may be carried out.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held on May 12-14, 1998 from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm. Persons who preregister by April 13, 1998 will be sent a final agenda prior to the meeting.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at: The Regal University Hotel, 2800 Campus Walk Avenue, Durham, North

Carolina, 27705. The telephone number for the hotel is (919) 383-8575 or 800-222-8888. Persons wishing to preregister for the meeting should contact Shonna Okada, EC/R Incorporated, 1129 Weaver Dairy Road, Chapel Hill, NC 27514. Ms. Okada's telephone is (919) 933-9501, extension 223, and her fax number is (919) 933-6361. Persons interested in making a presentation at the meeting should contact Ms. Okada prior to April 13, 1998 and submit a one page abstract to her.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dr. Basil Dimitriades, National Exposure Research Laboratory, Mail Drop 80, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Research Triangle Park, NC 27711, telephone (919) 541-2706, fax (919) 541-1094, e-mail dimitria.basil@epamail.epa.gov. Another contact is William L. Johnson, Ozone Policy and Strategies Group, Mail Drop 15, U. S. Environmental Protection Agency, Research Triangle Park, NC 27711, telephone (919) 541-5245, fax number (919) 541-0824, e-mail johnson.williaml@epamail.epa.gov.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The EPA is reviewing its photochemical reactivity policy, which has existed since 1977, in order to ensure that the policy is consistent with the most current scientific findings. In connection with this effort, EPA proposes to pursue planning and conduct of the requisite new research jointly with the private sector in a public-private partnership-type effort within the

on-going North America Research Strategy for Tropospheric Ozone (NARSTO) research program.

Consistent with the above, the specific objectives of the workshop are to: (a) identify on-going research programs in the area of photochemical reactivity, (b) identify research tasks needed in response to the private industry's and government's concerns, (c) identify organizations from the private and government sectors that would be willing to commit to become sponsors or co-sponsors of research and/or participants in the planning and conduct of the new research needed and the analysis and interpretation of the results, and (d) lay the management foundations of the proposed public-private partnership project. Following the workshop, a Proceedings Report will be prepared and distributed to all participants that will include a listing of would-be-sponsors/participants and their selections of research tasks to sponsor. The workshop should be relevant to research organizations with an interest in participating in the research program proposed here.

Although no policy decisions will be made at the meeting, policy issues will be discussed in order to bring to light scientific issues which must be addressed in the research program. The EPA wants to ensure an open dialogue that is not constrained by legal issues. However, in

developing any new reactivity policy, the Agency will need to assess the policy's legal viability. The EPA notes that the Agency must comply with current statutory mandates to regulate VOC emissions, and that this reconsideration of the Agency's policy does not delay or suspend the Agency's obligation to comply with such mandates. If additional studies that arise as a result of this workshop justify the Agency's reconsideration of any regulatory program in the future, EPA will take such action as the Agency deems appropriate at that time. The Agency does not intend the workshop to generate consensus advice or recommendations for the Agency.

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Date

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Research Laboratory

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Quality Planning and  
Standards